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SITUATED

20 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

21 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

22 MICHAEL SLAVKOV, et al.,

Case No. CV 14-4324 JST

23 Plaintiff,

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER -  
CONFIDENTIAL DESIGNATION ONLY**

24 v.

25 FAST WATER HEATER PARTNERS I,  
et al.

26 Defendants.

1     1.     PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2                 Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of  
3     confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public  
4     disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.  
5     Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated  
6     Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on  
7     all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure  
8     and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment  
9     under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section  
10    12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential  
11    information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and  
12    the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material  
13    under seal.

14     2.     DEFINITIONS

15         2.1     Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of  
16     information or items under this Order.

17         2.2     “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is  
18     generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule  
19     of Civil Procedure 26(c).

20         2.3     Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as  
21     well as their support staff).

22         2.4     Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that  
23     it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

24         2.5     Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the  
25     medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things,  
26     testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or  
27     responses to discovery in this matter.

28

1           2.6     Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to  
2 the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a  
3 consultant in this action.

4           2.7     House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House  
5 Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

6           2.8     Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal  
7 entity not named as a Party to this action.

8           2.9     Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this  
9 action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this action  
10 on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party.

11          2.10    Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,  
12 consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

13          2.11    Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery  
14 Material in this action.

15          2.12    Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services  
16 (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and  
17 organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and  
18 subcontractors.

19          2.13    Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as  
20 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21          2.14    Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a  
22 Producing Party.

23          3.      SCOPE

24          The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material  
25 (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2)  
26 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony,  
27 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.  
28 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following

1 information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a  
2 Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as  
3 a result of publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the  
4 public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party  
5 prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who  
6 obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating  
7 Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

8       4.     DURATION

9           Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by  
10 this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court  
11 order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all  
12 claims and defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after  
13 the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action,  
14 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to  
15 applicable law.

16       5.     DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

17       5.1     Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party  
18 or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care  
19 to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards.  
20 The Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents,  
21 items, or oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material,  
22 documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept  
23 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

24           Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are  
25 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to  
26 unnecessarily encumber or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary  
27 expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

28

1 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for  
2 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other  
3 Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

4       5.2     Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order  
5 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,  
6 Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so  
7 designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

8              Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

9              (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but  
10 excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing  
11 Party affix the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains protected material. If only  
12 a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also  
13 must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the  
14 margins).

15 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for inspection at the  
16 request of the Receiving Party need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting  
17 Party has indicated which material it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and  
18 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed  
19 "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants copied and  
20 produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for  
21 protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing  
22 Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL" legend to each page that contains Protected Material. If  
23 only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party  
24 also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the  
25 margins).

26              (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the  
27 Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other  
28 proceeding, all protected testimony.

6        5.3     Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to  
7 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's  
8 right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a  
9 designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is  
10 treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

## 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

12        6.1     Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of  
13 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality  
14 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic  
15 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to  
16 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the  
17 original designation is disclosed.

18        6.2     Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution  
19 process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis  
20 for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written  
21 notice must recite that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this  
22 specific paragraph of the Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in  
23 good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other  
24 forms of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In  
25 conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality  
26 designation was not proper and must give the Designating Party an opportunity to review the  
27 designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered,  
28 to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed to the next

1 stage of the challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or  
 2 establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and confer process in  
 3 a timely manner.

4       6.3     Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court  
 5 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under  
 6 Civil Local Rule 7 (and in compliance with Civil Local Rule 79-5, if applicable) within 21 days  
 7 of the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer  
 8 process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be  
 9 accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet  
 10 and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to  
 11 make such a motion including the required declaration within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable)  
 12 shall automatically waive the confidentiality designation for each challenged designation. In  
 13 addition, the Challenging Party may file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any  
 14 time if there is good cause for doing so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition  
 15 transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be  
 16 accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet  
 17 and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

18       The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating  
 19 Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose  
 20 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to  
 21 sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to  
 22 file a motion to retain confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the  
 23 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's  
 24 designation until the court rules on the challenge.

25       7.     ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

26       7.1     Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed  
 27 or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,  
 28 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only

1 to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation  
2 has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below  
3 (FINAL DISPOSITION).

4 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and  
5 in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

6       7.2     Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise  
7 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may  
8 disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

9               (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as  
10 employees or contractors of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary  
11 to disclose the information for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and  
12 Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

13               (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving  
14 Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the  
15 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

16               (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is  
17 reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and  
18 Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

19               (d) the court and its personnel;

20               (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors,  
21 and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who  
22 have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

23               (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably  
24 necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A),  
25 unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed  
26 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately  
27 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this  
28 Stipulated Protective Order;

1                             (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or  
2 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information; and

3                             (h) any mediator selected by the Parties to assist in the resolution of the case provided  
4 (s)he signs the "Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A).

5        8.    PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER  
6                             LITIGATION

7                             If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels  
8 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that Party  
9 must:

10                             (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a  
11 copy of the subpoena or court order;

12                             (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in  
13 the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to  
14 this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order;  
15 and

16                             (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the  
17 Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

18                             If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the  
19 subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as  
20 "CONFIDENTIAL" before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order  
21 issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party's permission. The Designating Party  
22 shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material –  
23 and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving  
24 Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

25        9.    A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS  
26                             LITIGATION

27                             (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in  
28 this action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Such information produced by Non-Parties in

1 connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order.  
2 Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking  
3 additional protections.

4 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a  
5 Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement  
6 with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

7 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some  
8 or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;  
9 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order  
10 in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the  
11 information requested; and

12 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

13 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within 14  
14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the  
15 Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely  
16 seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession  
17 or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a  
18 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the  
19 burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

20 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

21 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected  
22 Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective  
23 Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the  
24 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the  
25 Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were  
26 made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the  
27 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

28

1       11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED  
 2                   MATERIAL

3                  When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently  
 4 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the  
 5 Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This  
 6 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery  
 7 order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of  
 8 Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a  
 9 communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product  
 10 protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order  
 11 submitted to the court.

12       12. MISCELLANEOUS

13           12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to  
 14 seek its modification by the court in the future.

15           12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective  
 16 Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any  
 17 information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly,  
 18 no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material  
 19 covered by this Protective Order.

20           12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating Party  
 21 or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in  
 22 the public record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any  
 23 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only be  
 24 filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material  
 25 at issue. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5, a sealing order will issue only upon a request  
 26 establishing that the Protected Material at issue is privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or  
 27 otherwise entitled to protection under the law. If a Receiving Party's request to file Protected  
 28 Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5(d) is denied by the court, then the

1 Receiving Party may file the information in the public record pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5(e)  
2 unless otherwise instructed by the court.

3 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

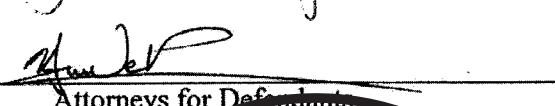
4 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each  
5 Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such  
6 material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,  
7 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected  
8 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must  
9 submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the  
10 Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all  
11 the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has  
12 not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or  
13 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to  
14 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts,  
15 legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work  
16 product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected  
17 Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to  
18 this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

19 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

20  
21 DATED: July 16, 2015

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Atorneys for Plaintiff

22  
23 DATED: July 14, 2015

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Atorneys for Defendants

24  
25 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED:

26  
27 DATED: July 23, 2015

